Meet the Leaders Behind WICE's Global Impact

WICE is led by a team of globally recognized experts dedicated to sustainable development economic development. With diverse backgrounds in areas such as ecology, health and nutrition , data science, and policy, our leaders bring decades of experience and a shared commitment to creating lasting environmental and social impact. Meet the individuals who drive our mission forward, each playing a vital role in advancing our global initiatives.

CEO

Dr Emily Weeks

Dr Emily Weeks,

COO

Brianna Smith

Brianna is a strategic

CBO

Bradley Thomas

Bradley Thomas is an

provides leadership across Climate, Natural Resource Management, Land and Resource Governance, Resilience and Food Security. She has led several key efforts including the Natural Resource Management guidance for the US Government Global Food Security Strategy for Resilience, Climate and Natural Resource Management policy, The Agency guidance on Nature Based Solutions, and the Land and Resource Governance Joint statement. Emily is a co-chair on the Global Donor Working Group for land, was the USAID representative on the National Climate Assessment 5, committee member on the donor advisor group for Agro-Ecology and committee member on the FAO Fisheries panel. She was also the lead for IPPC review in 2019 and was part of the USG

advisor with over 14 years of experience advancing public health programs across Africa. She brings a deep understanding of U.S. government foreign assistance, global health policy, and multisectoral institutions—drawing from years of hands-on experience with complex global initiatives.
Her consulting approach is grounded in translating technical complexity into practical, actionable strategies. Brianna has guided health programs in over 20 countries, providing strategic and operational support in areas such as HIV/AIDS, cross-sector collaboration, climate resilience, and innovative energy solutions. She is skilled at aligning diverse stakeholders, facilitating interagency coordination, and navigating high-stakes policy environments. Brianna has a proven

internationally experienced Bid Manager/Business Development professional with over 20 years' in the successful development and delivery of bids and proposals for a variety of government and commercial clients throughout the United States, European Union, and the Middle East.
Credentials:
Track record of strategic/high-value wins ($50M+) across a variety of business sectors
Technical background and education in IT implementation and management
Certifications in proposal development best practice, project management, and IT
Experience managing culturally-diverse teams both onsite and virtually. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Information Systems Management.

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delegation for the IPCC. Emily established the Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Initiative (CACCI), a global initiative that supports local organizations to work with key stakeholders at country level to meet NDC and NAP commitments. She was also the co-founder of the National Land Resource Centre, in New Zealand. She has managed over 20 themed collaborative research projects, as well conducted research for a range of projects in Oceania, Asia and Africa. She has a PhD in conservation biology and an MSc in Marine Ecology.

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track record in securing and managing large-scale investments, developing evidence-based policies, and designing systems to improve program performance and accountability. She is also recognized for her collaborative leadership style—mentoring teams, leading change processes, and driving consensus in dynamic settings.

Her career began in the field as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho, an experience that continues to shape her commitment to community-driven and sustainable health solutions. Brianna holds a Master of International Affairs with a concentration in Global Health and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She is a published author and the recipient of multiple U.S. government awards for innovation,

leadership, and outstanding performance.

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Senior Director Environment and Energy

Julia Kennedy

Julia Kennedy is an international climate, clean energy, and development leader with over 15 years of experience directing empowered, cross-cultural teams and impactful sustainable development projects. Her work has spanned government agencies, multilateral institutions, NGOs, and the private sector; building partnerships in complex environments across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

A former Foreign Service Officer with the United States Agency for

Senior Director Health

Kelly Wolfe

Kelly is a dynamic and results-driven public health professional with over 20 years of experience and a proven track record of leading and managing large-scale programs in international development. Her expertise spans strategic planning, full lifecycle project development, workforce planning, technical assistance, and capacity building for civil society organizations.

She holds a Master's degree in Public Health from The George Washington University, a Master of Education from

VP for Global Operations

Dr Stephanie Gerretsen

Stephanie is an urban planning and strategic communications professional with over a decade of international experience working with UN agencies, multilateral institutions, and governments to advance sustainable development goals through policy, planning, and public engagement. She specializes in developing long-range, evidence-based strategies that support climate resilience, urban regeneration, and inclusive economic

International Development (USAID), she most recently served as the division chief for economic growth, environment, and agriculture initiatives for USAID's Africa bureau. She led Power Africa's climate finance team and worked to increase climate and clean energy investments for the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. Julia was the Deputy Director of the Clean Energy and Environment Office for USAID/India and USAID's Deputy Indo-Pacific Coordinator in South Asia. She also served in Haiti, Ecuador, and Chad, and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mauritania. Prior to joining USAID, Julia was a Presidential Management Fellow working for the State Department on international climate negotiations. Ms. Kennedy holds a Masters degree in Global Environmental

Harvard University, COR certification, and a Secret security clearance. Kelly is passionate about advancing the health and well-being of vulnerable populations worldwide.

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growth.

Her work bridges research, strategy, and storytelling to drive systems-level change. A central focus of her professional and academic pursuits—also the subject of her PhD research—has been understanding the urban and economic impacts of sports stadiums, arenas, and entertainment districts. She has explored how large-scale infrastructure can shape neighborhood development, land value, and city governance when integrated within broader urban policy frameworks.

Through roles at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-Habitat, and USAID, Stephanie has supported climate and water-focused initiatives that incorporate nature-based solutions,

Policy from American University and a Bachelors degree in Engineering from Brown University.

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enhance urban policy, and foster cross-sector collaboration. She has also led strategic communications for global campaigns on plastic pollution, freshwater ecosystems, and sustainable development, translating complex policy and scientific insights into compelling narratives that inform, inspire, and mobilize diverse audiences.

Thriving at the intersection of urban planning and communications, Stephanie is currently open to consulting or new opportunities with organizations addressing today's most urgent climate and urban challenges.

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VP for Consulting Services

Dr

Senior Director Communications & External Engagement

Senior Director Africa Affairs

Robert

Zachary Baquet

Zachary is a strategic leader with over 16 years of experience in knowledge management (KM), organizational learning, and data-driven decision-making. He is recognized for transforming knowledge-sharing processes and leading multi-million-dollar initiatives that have strengthened institutional performance and impact.

Zachary has been at the forefront of pioneering AI-driven information synthesis to enhance learning, collaboration, and decision-making across complex organizations. His work integrates cutting-edge technologies with practical strategies to streamline workflows, foster organizational learning, and ensure that knowledge is

Cindy Arciaga Hodor

Cindy Arciaga Hodor has 20+ years of experience providing knowledge management (KM) expertise and specialized information services, communication, dissemination, outreach, and business and proposal development predominantly in the international public health arena. As the Senior Communications and Knowledge Management Advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Global Health (GH), Office of Country Support (OCS), she directed communications and knowledge management strategies in order to better support USAID's health staff working in Missions

Layng

Robert is a global economic, environmental, and humanitarian policy leader with extensive experience navigating the complexities of international geopolitics and multi-stakeholder collaboration to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. He has a proven track record of success in designing and implementing strategic programs across diverse cultural and political contexts, including in Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

As a diplomat and donor with USAID, Robert has led high-impact initiatives that integrate policy innovation with actionable, on-the-ground solutions. He has worked across

effectively captured, shared, and applied.

With a passion for leveraging technology to improve knowledge ecosystems, Zachary consistently drives innovation that empowers teams, improves program outcomes, and supports adaptive management in dynamic environments.

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and Country Offices outside of Washington, D.C. Producing and promoting OCS and GH Bureau tools and resources internally and building relationships, she facilitates the exchange of GH's knowledge and resources between Washington D.C. and global teams. Prior to USAID, she was the Senior Director for Knowledge Management at Jhpiego. She was responsible for strategic planning and implementation of global KM and dissemination in partnership with headquarter staff and country teams. Before Jhpiego, she worked for FHI 360 leading organization-wide knowledge exchange initiatives guiding collaboration and knowledge sharing activities for FHI 360's communities of practice. She was a Project Coordinator for the Public-Private

governmental, multilateral, and private-sector partners to drive measurable results. His areas of expertise span climate change, biodiversity conservation, tourism, private sector engagement, humanitarian response, and community development—often in fragile or politically sensitive regions.

Robert excels at developing visionary strategies and leading teams to translate those strategies into practical frameworks that deliver transformative outcomes. He brings extensive experience in managing the complexities of international partnerships and balancing the intersecting priorities of diverse stakeholders. In senior leadership roles, Robert is driven by a deep commitment to

	Partnerships for Handwashing with Soap; the Communications Director for A2Z: The USAID's Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project; the KM Director for FHI 360 projects addressing avian and pandemic influenzas, and the Knowledge Sharing Team Leader for the former USAID Development Information Services (DIS) Project. Other skills include project management; training and facilitation; branding and marking strategies; materials development; conceptualization, management, and evaluation of KM tools and services; development of KM, communication and information plans; research, writing and editing; and knowledge product design. She is certified from APMG International in Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD	sustainability, self-reliance, and resilience for households, communities, organizations, and countries. *Show Less*

Pro). Cindy has a Masters in Health Sciences in International Health and Population Policy from The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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Senior Director Consultant Marketplace

Schala Battle

Schala Battle has over 18 years of experience promoting peace and stability in complex and conflict-affected environments. Her technical expertise lies in designing and managing civil society, political transition, stabilization, preventing/countering violent extremism, conflict mitigation and peacebuilding programs. She brings diverse programmatic and operational

Senior Director Communities and Indigenous Peoples

Dr SiuSue Mark

SiuSue is a political economist and development practitioner with over 20 years of experience working at the intersection of democracy promotion, social justice and human rights, conflict mitigation, and land and natural resources governance. Of this, she has spent 10 years collaborating

Founder of WICE EU Branch

Dr Ir Daan Vreugdenhil

Dr. Ir. Daan Vreugdenhil, oversees the strategic planning, development, and implementation of global conservation initiatives. Collaborates with international partners, manages project budgets, and ensures program alignment with the organization's goals. Provides leadership to conservation teams and serves as a key spokesperson for conservation issues. Daan has worked for 30 years in planning and

experience, having served in a variety of field and DC-based positions on USAID and Department of State-funded programs. She is adept at working across the full program cycle including program design, project management, MEL, and reporting. Ms. Battle most recently served as a Strategic Planning and Activity Design Advisor with USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. Prior to joining USAID, she provided technical, design, writing, and facilitation support and training to for-profit, non-profit, and small business clients as an independent consultant. She previously provided technical leadership on several-large scale democracy and conflict programs, leading country assessments, strategy development, and context-driven program design and

with local and indigenous communities to safeguard land and natural resource rights, while advising governments and the private sector on sustainable natural resource management. After working for various NGOs and bilateral donors, including FCDO and USAID, she now serves as a Peace & Development Advisor on the United Nations' Roster and the OSCE Mediation Roster, with a focus on natural resource conflicts. She has synthesized many of the themes in which she has been engaged in her book Forging the Nation: Land Struggles in Myanmar's Transition Period (University of Hawai'i Press, 2023).

SiuSue is an experienced manager of diverse teams, operations, and budgets in fast-paced, complex organizations. She

management of natural resources of temperate and tropical terrestrial and aquatic environments. His career took him across 5 continents, while dealing with dry and humid tropical as well as temperate ecosystems. His background includes vegetation and animal ecology as well as natural resources and national parks management.

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serving as senior field leadership on programs in Africa and the Middle East. Schala holds a Master's degree in international affairs and development from the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University. *Show Less*	possesses well-honed analytical skills, including political economy analysis and evaluations for programming and policymaking. She is adept at transforming analysis into practical governance solutions that place a strong emphasis on human rights. She has geographic expertise across Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Latin America, and increasingly in the United States. SiuSue speaks intermediate-advanced Spanish, intermediate Chinese, and conversational Burmese. *Show Less*	

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